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"Butting In."

Our compliments to Brother Perkins, with whom it is so often The Sun's felicity to disagree. We discover no matter for controversy in his able letter to President Wilson commending on the Chief Executive's declaration at Columbus that it is "none of our business what the Mexicans do with their Government," and Mr. Wilson's firm announcement further that "as long as I have the power to prevent it nobody shall butt in to alter it for them."

Mr. Perkins does not address the President as a private citizen but as the chairman of the executive committee of the national Progressive party. The fact that his relation to this formerly potent but now quiescent organization gives a certain political flavor to the communication does not in the least impair the accuracy or the force of the document. Mr. Perkins tells Mr. Wilson plainly but respectfully what a great many other Americans would like to have the chance to tell him.

For example:
"When you refused to recognize Huerta you certainly 'buted in' in Mexico."

"In the manner in which you 'buted in' in Mexico is found the root of all the trouble and humiliation to which our country has been subjected, not only with Mexico but other foreign countries as well."

"When you 'buted in' in Mexico you demanded that our flag be saluted. You sent our troops to Vera Cruz. You brought our dead away and left our honor behind. You abandoned your demand that our flag be saluted."

"The result is that our prestige today in every foreign capital is at a lower ebb than ever before reached, and I believe that very many Americans join me in the feeling that all this is directly traceable to the fact that at the beginning of the Mexican situation you did not act as you now talk."

We hope that the historian to whom it shall fall some day to recount in enduring prose the good and the bad deeds of the Administration of Woodrow Wilson will carefully preserve this fearless and veracious memorandum on "butting in" in Mexico now contributed by the Hon. GEORGE W. PERKINS.

Indeed, it may even be said that in this remarkably direct and forcible letter Mr. Perkins has furnished not only material for future history but also evidence of his own capacity to be the historian in case the political and financial affairs of the national Progressive party should perchance cease by and by to engross his attention.

Desirable Details Omitted.

Postmaster-General BURELSON in his annual report points out the great cost of free rural delivery service, and it is regrettable that he did not expand this topic. It would be instructive to know why the system of free rural delivery by automobiles has not been developed to the gratifying possibilities its partial application, notably in Indiana, so positively foreshadowed. It was demonstrated by actual experience, we believe, that an automobile free rural delivery service could be operated at approximately one-half the cost of the prevalent one horse shay method. To be sure substituting the auto for the shay involved putting a rather formidable number of able bodied voters out of jobs. When an automobile would do the work of two or more shays and do it better the services of just that proportion of shay drivers would become superfluous. Yet the change would mean a saving of millions of dollars to the Post Office Department every year, and in any other than a Government business enterprise this fact would weigh.

There were rumors not many months ago that these contingently superfluous job holders rose in their might out in the middle West; that they appealed to their Congressmen; that their Congressmen were heard from in Washington, and that, well, that enthusiasm for automobile rural delivery economies languished in the Post Office Department. Is this the fact or is it a more academic abstraction? It would be particularly interesting to know just at this time because the principle involved applies to all Government business enterprises.

such, for instance, as the proposed shipping promotion scheme and the further plunge into state socialism incident to Mr. BURELSON's own insistence that telephone and telegraph service be a Government monopoly.

Still another question as to rural free delivery is suggested by Mr. BURELSON's report. Before the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads last August he testified that there was a portion of the rural delivery service operated by private enterprise under lease an annual saving of from \$10,000,000 to \$18,000,000 would be effected. Have conditions changed since last August or does that statement of Mr. BURELSON's still hold?

In Defense of a Gentleman Without a Press Agent.

The Hon. WILLIAM CHARLES ADAMS, who represents the Fourth Georgia district in the House of Representatives, may have said to the young and attractive suffragist who called upon him, "Go home and get married," and they may thereby have been made as hot as ginger. They should have remained cool and have prolonged their visit.

The sweetness of his nature makes it self-evident that never since that June day in 1874 when BILL ADAMS was graduated from Bowdon College, Bowdon, Ga., could he ever have raised his voice except in kindness to any women. He dates upon the fair sex; he strives gallantly to make agreeable the visits of women to the rooms of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, where Colonel ADAMS presides.

Even had his suffragist callers not been young and pretty—a useless supposition, unsupported by any visitors at the Capitol—had they not departed in gingery haste, Chairman ADAMS would have invited them to stay for coffee. His old negro messenger would have shuffled down to the House restaurant for a pitcher of cream; the chairman would have brought forth from a card index cabinet a paper bag of lump sugar, a canister of fragrant Mocha, a spirit lamp and a tin coffee pot. None of your newfangled percolators for him; his is the almost lost art of brewing old fashioned coffee.

It had been a keen pleasure for the ladies to watch the chairman gather and carefully wash his coffee service of water glasses and cups, his silver spoons, pour the bright brown brew steaming from the tin pot, add cream and sugar with many a solicitous inquiry as to quantity, briskly order the smiling messenger, "Here, you boy, stop lively with those cups or I'll break your damn black head." The gentle spirit of hospitality all pervading.

In debate Chairman ADAMS, it is true, does at times turn upon an opponent and in language which reveals the classical scholar, burn and wither. But rude to women? Preposterous! This paper never more cheerfully performed a public duty than in defending a public servant who never had a press agent or sent an inviting note to the press gallery.

The Good Name of the Two Services.

The Secretary DANIELS is fully justified in rebuking the Yonkers Judge who, according to newspaper report, gave to a convicted chicken thief the option of jail or joining the naval service of the United States.

This is not the first incident of the kind. Prompt action is required to make odious such reformatory experiments on the part of the minor bench. There must be no toleration of the idea that either the army or the navy can be used as a convenient annex to local penal institutions.

The misuse of either arm of the service in this way and for this purpose is not in step with the national movement for preparedness.

The Allies' Retreat Into Greece.

The retreat of the Anglo-French army from Serbia is the not unexpected ending of the inadequate, ill advised rapid expedition into the Balkans. Its retirement toward Salonica and the pursuit by the Teutonic-Bulgarian forces, however, present a serious problem to the Allies and complicate the already perplexing Grecian situation.

The expedition was never in sufficient numbers to offer material assistance to the Serbians against the overwhelming forces which were pressing them, and it effected little more than a diversion of Bulgarian troops to the southern Vardar valley. But the failure of this unfortunate expedition can scarcely be taken to forecast the abandonment of the Balkans by the Allies.

So much is at stake that success in this field seems more than ever imperative. Apart from the question of honor involved in succoring Serbia and preventing her territory from becoming a political pawn to be played by Germany there must be considered the effect of the abandonment upon Greece and Rumania. Again, from a military point of view, withdrawal from the Balkans would be a perilous policy. It would present an opportunity to the Central Powers for the establishment of a much needed submarine base on the Greek coast and would leave the far flung Teutonic line in the East practically free from attack at a vital point.

Apparently the only thing left for the Allies is to establish a base at Salonica and to operate from there. Their position could be fortified and at the same time be under protection of ships in the harbor. Their delay in meeting the Balkan situation will prove costly; for, while a comparatively small force might have been used with much effect in checking the

Teutonic advance, it will require a large army to dislodge the invaders now that they are in possession and have the advantage of months spent in fortifying their position.

But a base at Salonica must imply the consent of Greece. This was secured for the small force that was landed, and the late reports indicate that Greece will not enter a serious opposition to further use of this port by the Allies. What action, however, will Greece take regarding the pursuit of the retreating Anglo-French troops? It is evident that she will oppose any attempt of the Bulgarians to cross her border. The ancient feud between the two peoples has been embittered by the Bulgarian successes in the Serbian campaign and especially by the occupation of Monastir and FERDINAND's defiant proclamation that he intends to retain possession of the town.

The Central Powers evidently appreciate this situation and are hurrying German and Austrian troops to the border. In case these cross the frontier and undertake the pursuit of the retreating Anglo-French forces to Salonica all the diplomatic resources of King CONSTANTINE and his advisers will be stretched to the utmost to maintain the neutrality they have proclaimed. Dodging the issue as best they can, it is difficult to see how Greece can escape having the war upon her own soil.

The Mutiny Aboard the Ark of Peace.

It seems like an irony of hospitality, so to speak, that dissension has broken out on the Ark of Peace, in the vast deep somewhere east of Cape Race, despite mal de mer and other inconveniences of sea travel. The Oscar II. is a ship divided against herself. It is over President Wilson's appeal for preparedness in the message he read to Congress that the pilgrims have fallen out, a majority under the leadership of the Rev. CHARLES F. AKER, the imported San Francisco pastor, denouncing Mr. Wilson's "frivolousness" in a "declaration of principles," and a minority captained by Editor S. S. McCLELLY, refusing to sign the round robin of nuthans.

The score is 26 to 9 against the President, but among the mutineers are Mrs. BEN LINDSEY, Senator HELEN RING ROBINSON, Governor HANNA of North Dakota and BEN LINDSEY himself, the fighting Judge of the Children's Court in Denver. On which side Mrs. INEZ MILLERLAND ROSSIE arrayed herself the wireless does not say, but the intrepid McCLELLY is in good company anyway. There is a dark hint that the seceders in high dudgeon may quit the Ark at Christiania and let their shipmates get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas themselves.

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We regret to see an attempt at closure aboard the Oscar II. The offender is no less a person than HENRY FOM, the head peace-maker. Ready himself into a caucus of one, Mr. FOM has issued the following ultimatum: "Since it (the declaration of principles) is signed by the majority, it represents the sentiment of the whole party. The minority must stand with the majority. All are welcome." Imagine cracking the whip over a head as full of ideas and self-consecration as that of S. S. McCLELLY, who, besides, is an independent as any crusader who ever lived. All may be welcome to the groaning board of FOM, but SAM McCLELLY wouldn't surrender a conviction to him for "the wealth of Ormus or of Ind," or of Detroit.

So the flag of preparedness is hoisted by the brave band he leads, and it will never be hauled down. Whether the struggle goes on until the minority becomes the majority and takes possession of the Oscar II. remains to be seen. Stranger sea stories have been told. What is hospitality between first class passengers on the Ark of Peace when the appeal to patriotism is made? Editor McCLELLY is quite capable of converting everybody and carrying the day. We trust that there will not be the spectacle of HENRY FOM in Irons when the pilot attempts to take the Oscar II. into Christiania.

Inspecting Buildings Hereabout.

The projected consolidation of the six State and city departments which now supervise the construction and alteration of buildings in New York is demanded in the public interest because it will centralize authority and responsibility and if honestly undertaken should reduce expenses. It is required by owners, builders and tenants, because under the present chaotic conditions nobody knows what orders are intended to be obeyed and which are nullified by the orders of bureaus having coordinate power. The result of these conflicts of authority is unnecessary expense to the taxpayer, inefficiency in administration and confusion of building operations and building maintenance.

The Legislature of this year showed a disposition to improve the present practice, but its purpose was thwarted by the differences of opinion which arose among the advocates of simplification with regard to the methods to be adopted. The real estate interests favored one plan, the administration another, with the result that nothing was done. There is no reason to believe that the Legislature of 1916 will be less hospitable to suggestions coming from this city than its predecessor.

The problem is to bring about agreement between the city administration and the real estate interests on a reasonable and proper bill. This can be attained if the first ambition of all concerned is the public welfare, and questions of patronage on the one hand and subtle attempts to avoid proper regulation on the other are disregarded. A measure honestly drawn to protect the interests of all concerned would, we believe, be speedily enacted into law.

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